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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
First session
1-3 October 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

4. Dates and venues of future sessions.

5. Other matters.

6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its first session.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

Rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) provides that, unless the commission decides otherwise, its subsidiary organs shall elect their own officers.

Rule 24 of the rules of procedure states that the rules of procedure of the commission shall apply to the proceedings of its subsidiary organs in so far as they are practicable.

Therefore, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Forum shall elect, at the commencement of its first session, from among the representatives of its members, such officers as may be required.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Item 3. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly decided to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests through the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development to work in an open, transparent and participatory manner, with a focused and time-limited mandate, and charged with, inter alia, (a) promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests; (b) reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests; and (c) considering matters left pending as regards the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, in particular trade and environment in relation to forest products and services, transfer of technology and the need for financial resources.

Also at its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly decided that (a) the Forum should identify the possible elements of and work towards consensus in international arrangements and mechanisms, for example, a legally binding instrument, and would report on its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999; (b) based on that report and depending on the decision of the Commission at its eighth session, the Forum would engage in further action on establishing an intergovernmental negotiation process on new arrangements and mechanisms or a legally binding instrument on all types of forests; (c) the Forum should convene as soon as possible to further elaborate its terms of reference and decide on organizational matters.

In its resolution 1997/65, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish, under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an ad hoc, open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests as envisaged by the General Assembly, which would report to the Commission at its eighth session, in 2000.

The Council also decided that the Forum should hold its first (organizational) session in New York from 1 to 3 October 1997 so that the preparations for substantive sessions could start without delay.

The Council further decided that the Forum at its first session should schedule its work programme, decide on the modalities of its work, including the election and designation of officers, and recommend to the Council the number, venue and duration of its substantive sessions, which could be up to two weeks each. In addition, recognizing the wide range of issues to be addressed, the Council decided that the Forum might consider dividing its work between in-session working groups, on the understanding that no more than two working groups would meet simultaneously.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work and organizational modalities for the open-ended ad hoc Intergovernmental Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/IFF/1997/2)

Item 4. Dates and venues of future sessions

In its resolution 1997/65, the Council decided that the Forum at its first (organizational) session should recommend to the Council the number, venue and duration of its substantive sessions, which could be up to two weeks each. In addition, recognizing the wide range of issues to be addressed, the Council decided that the Forum might consider dividing its work between in-session working groups, on the understanding that no more than two working groups would meet simultaneously.

Item 5. Other matters

Item 6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its first session

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